

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13

ACDA-12 SSM-03 /110 W

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R 110830Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5020

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, LY, TS

SUBJECT: UGTT/LIBYAN TRADE FEDERATION JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: (A) TUNIS 0135 (B) 77 TRIPOLI 1294 (C) 77 TRIPOLI 1529

SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ON VISITS OF UGTT OFFICIALS TO TRIPOLI SUBSTANTIATE LE MONDE ARTICLE ALLEGATION THAT UGTT REJECTS SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVES. UGTT REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED NOV 28 ICATU CONDEMNATORY RHETORIC CRITICIZING SADAT. UGTT OFFICIALS VISITING TRIPOLI DEC 26 HAVE MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, WE KNOW OF NO SEPARATE UGTT/LIBYAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNING SADAT. GIVEN STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO UGTT OFFICIALS BY LOCAL PRESS, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT, DESPITE ABSENCE OF COMMUNIQUE, UGTT REJECTS SADAT'S INITIATIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. REVIEW OF NOV 28-DEC 5 LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB TRADE UNIONS EMERGENCY SESSION INDICATES THAT THE TUNISIAN UGTT SUBSCRIBED TO THE RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING PRESIDENT SADAT'S JERUSALEM VISIT AND PEACE INITIATIVES (REFTEL C). MEDIA DOES NOT REPORT THAT THE UGTT ABSTAINED OR REFUSED TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE COUNCIL'S ANTI-SADAT "MEMORANDUM" WHICH REJECTS NEGOTIATIONS

WITH THE ISRAELIS AND INTER ALIA CALLS FOR "POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SANCTIONS AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN
REGIME" (REFTEL C).

2. UGTT ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INFORMATION
HASSAN HAMOUDIA AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS ABDULLAH QADOOR REPORTEDLY DENIED
ON DEC 26 ALLEGATIONS OF THE EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION THAT
THE UGTT SUPPORTS SADAT'S INITIATIVE. THE DENIAL
ALLEGEDLY WAS MADE BY THE "ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE TUNISIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION" UPON HIS ARRIVAL
IN TRIPOLI DEC 26. PRESS DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER
STATEMENT WAS MADE BY HAMOUDIA OR QADOOR, BUT THE
UNNAMED UGTT OFFICIAL ALLEGEDLY REMARKED THAT THE
TUNISIAN TRADE UNION POSITION IS "ABSOLUTELY CLEAR" AS IT
WAS PRESENTED AT THE NOV 28 ICATU TRIPOLI MEETING.
DEC 25 PRESS FURTHER REPORTED THAT TUNISIAN TRADE
DELEGATION CONDEMNED SADAT'S JERUSALEM VISIT AND
THAT IT HAD REITERATED THIS POSITION IN DAMASCUS
DEC 24 DURING A SECOND ICATU CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING.

3. LE MONDE JAN 6 ARTICLE AS DESCRIBED REFTEL A APPEARS
TO ACCURATELY DESCRIBE UGTT POSITION THAT WAS TAKEN AT
NOV 28 ICATU CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING IN TRIPOLI.
DEC 26 STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY UGTT OFFICIALS DURING
VISIT HERE ALSO APPEARS TO SUBSTANTIATE ARTICLE'S
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ASSERTION THAT UGTT QUOTE SE SERAIT RANGEE DANS LE CLAN DU
REFUS APROPOS DE L'INITIATIVE DU PRESIDENT SADATE UNQUOTE.
HOWEVER, LOCAL PRESS DOES NOT INDICATE, AS LE MONDE
ARTICLE ALLEGES, THAT UGTT AND LIBYANS ISSUED A SEPARATE
"JOINT COMMUNIQUE" CONDEMNING SADAT'S INITIATIVES AFTER
THE DEC 26 UGTT OFFICIALS' VISIT TO TRIPOLI.

4. DESPITE MINOR INACCURACY OF LE MONDE REPORT ON JOINT

UGTT/LIBYAN TRADE FEDERATION JOINT COMMUNIQUE, STATEMENTS
ATTRIBUTED TO UGTT OFFICIALS IN TRIPOLI CLEARLY INDICATE
THAT UGTT, ITS DENIALS TO THE CONTRARY, HAS TAKEN A
DEFINITE POSITION REJECTING SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVES.
CARLE

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